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THE VIEW

WINTER 2009-10 • VOL. 17, NO. 2



The newsletter for the City of Mountain View



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To learn about upcoming events in Mountain View, check the Events Calendar on page 7 of this edition of *The View*, go online to the City's website at www.mountainview.gov, or tune to cable television KMTV, channel 26.

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the holidays with friends and family at the Mountain View Tree Lighting Celebration on Wednesday, December 2, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro Street. This annual, free event features live holiday music, refreshments, holiday lights, and the chance for children to have their picture taken. (See page 5 for more information.)

GENERAL PLAN PROGRESS

The City completed the first phase of the update to the General Plan this Fall when the City Council adopted the General Plan Visioning Report. The Report includes a summary of the type of community residents envisioned for the future during two citywide public meetings and 40 smaller community outreach meetings. The vision statement, along with related planning principles, will serve as the framework for updating the City's General Plan document.

The General Plan is a comprehensive, long-range planning and zoning policy document describing how the community plans to address issues such as land use, economics, housing, climate change, urban design, community services, facilities, open space, and conservation. The General Plan will be used to guide Mountain View's future development for the next twenty years.

The General Plan update process is expected to be completed in December 2010 and includes additional hearings and community outreach meetings. For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6306 or E-mail community.dev@mountainview.gov.



PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN



The City of Mountain View is proud to offer a safe, comfortable and convenient environment for pedestrians. In June 2009, the City Council authorized developing a Pedestrian Master Plan to further enhance walkability in Mountain View. The master plan is a comprehensive, City-wide policy document with pedestrian-friendly policies and guidelines to improve access to transit, connect sidewalk network in employment areas such as the North Bayshore, and improve the access to neighborhood retail areas.

To ensure the Pedestrian Master Plan meets the needs of all residents, the City wants your input on improving walkability in Mountain View. To learn more about the process,

please visit www.mountainview.gov/pedestrian or call the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311. Pedestrian related comments are also being collected through the City's General Plan public outreach meetings at www.mountainview2030.com. The deadline for comments is December 15, 2009.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The City is in the process of preparing a new Consolidated Plan to determine priorities for the use of the Federal funds that are distributed to Mountain View through the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. Both programs are designed to benefit low-income households in the community. The Plan is updated every five years and the current Consolidated Plan expires on June 30, 2010.

The Draft Consolidated Plan will be available for public review in February or March 2010, and the City will hold two public hearings during those two months for additional comments and adoption considerations. Activities that may be funded under the Consolidated Plan include construction of affordable housing, public improvements that serve disabled persons, and programs that provide basic needs such as healthcare, shelter for the homeless, and support services for seniors and youth. For more information about the Plan and to obtain a list of public hearings, contact the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6379.



HIGH SPEED RAIL MEETING

The City of Mountain View has scheduled a communitywide informational meeting on the San Jose to San Francisco segment of the proposed California High Speed Rail (CHSR) project. City and CHSR Authority staff will provide information on the proposed rail project, including the possibility of having a station in Mountain View. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 10, 2009, 6:30 pm at the Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue.

Residents will learn about the rail project and can provide comments addressing issues and impacts on the community of Mountain View. A second community meeting will follow in January 2010, after the Authority's release of the alternative analysis report, to solicit public comments on the proposed alternative designs.

In November 2008, California voters approved a \$9 billion bond measure an 800-mile, high-speed rail system stretching from San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento in the north to Los Angeles, Anaheim and San Diego in the south. The system will use electric-powered high-speed train technology and travel in speeds exceeding 200 mph. In the Bay Area, the new trains will travel along the existing Caltrain corridor at 125 mph. The CHSR Authority website is www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

For more information about the CHSR project, please visit www.mountainview.gov or call the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Don't miss these annual community events this Winter:

Community Holiday Tree Lighting – Wednesday, December 2, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., 500 Castro Street

Rengstorff Holiday Open House – Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard

Cops That Care Toy Distribution Event – Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., 1000 Villa Street

It is the City of Mountain View's goal, especially in the current economic environment, to keep residents informed about the budget process, how the City is financed and its relationship to City services. With this edition of *The View* newsletter, the City provides a brief primer on budgeting challenges for the City. This edition will also provide some key concepts that are helpful for understanding how your tax dollars are at work providing City services and some of the core concepts of municipal budgeting.

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDGET UPDATE

The City of Mountain View is beginning its budget development process early for the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget because the fiscal challenges ahead are considerable. Traditional City budget cycles generally begin in the Spring, but to meet the challenges ahead the City started the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget process immediately after the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget adoption this past Summer. Initial budget meeting information was provided to the City Council in June and September of 2009. In November 2009, the City also held community information meetings. This is in preparation for preliminary recommendations to be provided to the City Council for consideration in late January 2010.

Past, Present and Future Challenges for City General Fund

The City recently completed a Long-Range Financial Forecast to project revenue and expenditure trends for the next ten years. The purpose of the report was to provide the City Council with reasonable projections of Mountain View's future financial situation in order to facilitate current decision-making. Trends in the report pointed to a continuation of a deficit based on status quo budgets throughout the 10-year forecast period and point to the difficulty of maintaining a positive balance of revenues and expenditures. This long-range financial forecast is helping to guide the City as it confronts the need to balance expenditures and revenues. The challenges ahead include confronting issues of declining revenues and increasing expenditures while attempting to maintain current service levels, City facilities and infrastructure.

The City of Mountain View is a service organization and the complex variety of services the City provides includes public safety, water and sewer, park maintenance, recreation, senior services, arts and culture, street maintenance, water, planning and zoning, building inspection, economic development, library, trash and recycling, and Shoreline Regional Park. The General Operating Fund is the main component of the City's operating budget and funds core programs and services. Other special funds are restricted by law for the purpose of such funds (such as water and wastewater enterprise funds) and cannot be used for general operational purposes. The General Operating Fund revenues are subject to changes in economic conditions and can fluctuate significantly. Decreases in revenues are most significantly impacting the City's "General Operating

(continued on page 2)

NEWS FOR YOU

BUDGET UPDATE *(continued from page 1)*

Fund” that is used to provide most City services, such as public safety, libraries, parks and recreation programs. Regular cyclical fluctuations can usually be factored into longer-term analyses, but the dramatic downturn of this current recession has significantly impacted revenues and creates increased uncertainty.

Other major funds include the Revitalization Authority, the Shoreline Regional Park Fund and the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Management Enterprise Funds. These funds are further explained in the box below. They are not subject to as significant fluctuations as the General Operating Fund.

What are the Different Types of City Funds?

- **Special Revenue Funds:** Are to account for funds legally restricted for specific purposes. Such as the downtown revitalization activities, cable television franchise activities, federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects and parking district operations. Also, the Shoreline Regional Park Community Fund (North Bayshore Area) is a Special Revenue Fund.
- **Restricted Capital Project Funds:** Are used for projects, such as park renovations and storm drain upgrades. Most major capital projects are budgeted in the City’s General Capital Project funds.
- **Enterprise Funds:** Account for operations financed and operated in a manner similar to private business where the intent is that the costs of providing the service to customers is financed through user charges. Examples include: Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste.
- **Internal Service Funds:** Used to account for the financing of goods and services provided by one City department to other departments on a cost reimbursement basis. Examples of Internal Service funds include: equipment maintenance, workers’ compensation, employee benefits, retirees’ health benefits, unemployment self-insurance, and the City’s general self-insurance liability.
- **Other Funds:** debt service funds, trust and agency funds held for others: e.g., payroll, performing arts, etc.

Over the last decade, a series of General Operating Fund reductions in department budgets ranging from 2.2 percent for the City’s Fire Department to 27.9 percent for the City Manager’s Office were completed to reduce expenditures. These reductions were designed to have the most limited impact on the community by looking at all possible efficiencies. The City had been able to approach budget reductions by focusing on cost-saving measures that were not as apparent to residents. However, the choices ahead are more difficult.

For the City of Mountain View, sales tax revenues peaked in Fiscal Year 2000-01, during the height of the dot-com boom. The City experienced a decline in revenues of approximately \$12.0 million over the next two fiscal years. From Fiscal Year 2002-03 through Fiscal Year 2005-06, the City reduced General Operating Fund expenditures by \$10.8 million, eliminated 66.25 positions, with 58.5 of those being from the

General Operating Fund, and made adjustments to revenue transfers and charges for services of \$2.5 million.

The original projection for the Fiscal Year 2009-10 “General Operating Fund” budget included an approximate \$6.0 million deficit (compared to \$86.5 million in estimated General Operating Fund revenue). In Fiscal Year 2009-10, the City

How is the City Funded?

To be able to provide a full range of services to Mountain View residents, the City relies on a complex mix of funding sources with the bulk of City services and projects being funded from property, sales, other taxes and fees for services. This is supplemented by grants and other one-time sources.

| | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Property Taxes | \$26.0 M | 30.0% |
| - City receives 16% of 1% levy | | |
| Sales Tax | \$15.7 M | 18.0% |
| - City receives 1% of taxable sales | | |
| Other Taxes | \$8.8 M | 10.0% |
| - 3% Utility Users Tax (utilities and telecommunications) | | |
| - 10% Transient Occupancy Tax | | |
| Use of Money & Property | \$11.5 M | 13.3% |
| - Investment income | | |
| - Lease of City property | | |
| Other Revenues | \$22.7 M | 26.1% |
| - Federal Grants, Development Fees, Recreation Fees, etc. | | |
| Loan Repayments | \$2.1 M | 2.4% |

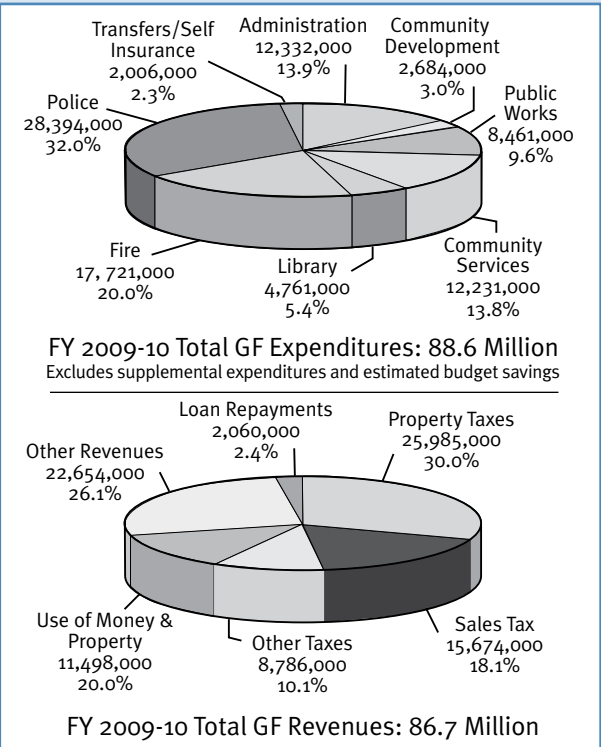
*FY 2009-10 Data

reduced General Operating Fund expenditures by another \$4.0 million, eliminated funding for 15.25 (13.0 in the General Operating Fund) filled/unfilled positions and made adjustments in fees for services of \$190,000. Subsequently, the City Council also adopted modifications to employee compensation in collaboration with employee groups saving \$377,000 for FY 2009-10 (\$852,000 for FY 2010-11). Recognizing the service reductions due to cuts of the past and the significant impacts of achieving the additional \$1.6 million in deficit reduction to structurally balance the budget, the City’s budget contingency reserve was used to eliminate the remaining deficit. The goal in doing so was to allow additional time to address the remaining structural deficit.

For Fiscal Year 2010-11, the City is currently facing a projected structural budget deficit (operating revenues not

How are Tax Contributions Distributed?

- For every \$1,000 you pay in property taxes to the County of Santa Clara, Mountain View receives approximately \$160
- For every \$100 you spend on taxable goods within the City of Mountain View, the City receives approximately \$1.00 with the remaining \$8.25 going to the State of California and special districts (the sales tax rate for Mountain View is 9.25 percent).



meeting operating expenditures) of \$4.1 million. Strategies to eliminate the projected deficit could include additional efficiencies, service reductions, and revenue increases. The structural deficit is both part of a very challenging financial time in which the City has been confronted with a decline in a number of revenue sources as well as operational cost increases. The challenges ahead are significant and as the City works to reach a structurally balanced budget (operating revenues that are greater than or equal to operating expenditures).

Stay Informed About the Budget Process

- It is the City’s goal to keep the community informed throughout this budget process about the hard choices ahead. There are a variety of ways to stay informed:
- Sign-up for budget updates by E-mail by sending an E-mail to citybudgetinfo@mountainview.gov
 - Subscribe to budget E-mail notifications on-line on the City’s website at www.mountainview.gov
 - Sign-up with your E-mail to the new on-line service “Ask Mountain View” (see story on page 3) and request budget updates
 - Contact the City Manager’s Office at (650) 903-6301 with comments or questions
 - Call the City’s Budget Information Line for recorded information or to leave a message at (650) 903-6656
 - Check-out this edition and future edition of The View, the City’s newsletter
 - Tune-in to the cable broadcast of scheduled budget meetings on KMVT-26
 - Download webcasts of City Council meetings anytime at www.mountainview.gov

FLU SEASON PREPARATIONS

Along with other government agencies, the City is preparing for the winter flu season. Santa Clara County declared a local state of emergency for the H1N1 virus (or swine flu virus), at the end of September 2009, enabling local agencies to put needed resources in place to respond to any substantial outbreak that affects the community.

The County Public Health Department has made preparations to distribute the H1N1 vaccine, as well as anti-viral medications. The Mountain View Fire Department will aid in the effort by:

- Working on a continuity of operations plan that considers the likelihood and impact of a flu pandemic
- Taking steps to limit the spread of flu within the City by instituting a “no work while sick” policy and encouraging personal hygiene practices
- Cooperating with the Public Health Department to provide resources for the pandemic flu response, such as space for influenza care centers and providing critical services
- Preparing to provide law enforcement resources and



Disaster Service Workers in response to a pandemic influenza

- Participating in the planning and preparation of a Countywide response plan
- Developing Points of Delivery Sites (PODS) within the City

Finally, individuals and families, in order to protect themselves and limit the spread of the disease, need to take responsibility for staying informed about the risk for pandemic flu and take appropriate common-sense actions, such as practicing good hygiene and preparing their own pandemic flu emergency kits. Individuals and families should also become familiar with isolation, quarantine, and social distancing measures they may be required to take during a pandemic. Households will need to make contingency plans for scenarios such as closure of daycare and school facilities.

The Public Health Information Line is available with recorded information on Pandemic and Avian Influenza information 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. Public health staff can answer questions Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Please call (408) 885-3980 or visit their website at <http://www.pandemic-flu.gov.html>.

For more information, call the Mountain View Fire Department (650) 903-6825.

The View is published three times a year (March, September and December) by the City of Mountain View. **The View** is delivered by bulk mail to every residential address and many businesses in Mountain View.

Mountain View City Council
Mayor: Margaret Abe-Koga
Vice Mayor: Ronit Bryant

Council members:
John Inks
R. Michael Kasperzak, Jr.
Laura Macias
Tom Means
Jac Siegel
Kevin Duggan, City Manager

The View • P.O. Box 395, Mountain View, CA 94042
(650) 903-6301

City Website
www.mountainview.gov
The View is available on the City’s website.

Extra Copies
A limited supply of extra copies of **The View** is available at City Hall, 500 Castro Street, the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, and the Community Center, 201 South Rengstorff Avenue.

The View is printed on 30 percent recycled paper. ♻️

City Mission Statement
The City of Mountain View provides quality services and facilities that meet the needs of a caring and diverse community in a financially responsible manner.

Sign up today:
www.alertscc.com

NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Santa Clara County began implementation of a new Alert and Warning System called Alert SCC in September that enables officials to notify residents of large-scale emergencies, such as earthquakes, fires, crimes, hazardous material spills and infectious diseases. Mountain View is one of the first two cities in the County to implement the system. Similar systems have been implemented in counties throughout the country. The mass notification system played an important role this past Summer in helping to alert San Diego County residents of fire evacuations.

AlertSCC is a powerful mass notification system that will be used to send emergency information and instructions to anyone who lives or works in Santa Clara County. AlertSCC will send messages to phone numbers included in the emergency 911 and 411 directory listings. In addition, by registering at www.alertscc.com, you may provide additional contact information to receive messages by cell phone, text message or E-mail.

For more information about the new system, call the Office of Emergency Services at (650) 903-6825.

DOWNTOWN FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The City will hold a series of public meetings and focus groups this Spring to gather community input to help in creating the design for a new downtown affordable family rental housing development. Final design for the project is scheduled for presentation to the City Council in May or June 2010.

The housing is intended for low-income families and will be located on the southeast corner of Evelyn Avenue and Franklin Street. The new housing project will be a partnership between ROEM, a private design/build company, and the Housing Authority of Santa Clara County.

The apartments will be rent-restricted in order to be affordable to households earning 60% or less of the Area Median Income, which is \$63,660 for a family of four. The development will also include amenities such as a community room, a computer training center for residents, play areas and a landscaped courtyard. Families who either live or work in Mountain View will be given preference when renting the units.

Once the design is approved, construction could begin as early as 2011. To receive notices of upcoming meetings regarding the project and for more information, contact the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6379.



STEVENS CREEK TRAIL UPDATE

The City continues its work on the development of the Stevens Creek Trail, a hiking and biking trail which will run from Shoreline at Mountain View Park to Mountain View High School when completed. Currently, the trail runs from Shoreline Park to the Sleeper Avenue Open Space area.

The next segment, which will run from Sleeper Avenue over Highway 85 to the intersection of Dale Avenue and Heatherstone Way, is in the design phase. This quarter-mile segment will provide residents east of Highway 85 with convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to El Camino Real, downtown, nearby schools and parks, and Shoreline at Mountain View.

Completion of the design of this segment is expected in early 2010. Construction is slated to begin by Summer 2010. The Highway 85 overcrossing should open to the public by Fall 2011.

For more information, call the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.



FIRE STATION NO. 5 UPDATE

The City expects to complete the design of a new Fire Station 5 in early 2010. The new 10,000 sq. ft. building will be located at the corner of North Shoreline Boulevard and Crittenden Lane, replacing the temporary station that has been housed in modular buildings on the site since 1999. The new station will feature a traditional brick exterior.

The building is being designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Silver standard, which requires water and energy conservation measures, storm water treatment, and other sustainable features.

For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.

PERMANENTE CREEK TRAIL UPDATE

The City is proceeding with a project to extend the Permanente Creek Trail from its current terminus on the north (Bay) side of Highway 101 to the south side of Old Middlefield Way by constructing a pedestrian/bicycle crossing over Highway 101 and a tunnel under Old Middlefield Way.

The trail extension will provide a safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connection across a busy roadway and major highway. The extension is intended to connect the neighborhoods south of Highway 101 with the commercial and recreational facilities in the North Bayshore area.

Design will be complete in early 2010. The trail is scheduled to open in 2011. For more information, call the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.



NEW FIRE FLEET DEDICATION

The Fire Department dedicated a fleet of seven new pumper trucks and one new ladder truck at a ceremony on October 12. The new fleet offers many new safety features, including hydraulic ladder racks, side roll protection, frontal air bags, and back-up cameras to reduce the risk of accidents.

All the vehicles were purchased from a single manufacturer to reduce purchase, maintenance, and training costs. For more information, call the Fire Department at (650) 903-6365.

ASK MOUNTAIN VIEW

The City has launched a new feature on its website, www.mountainview.gov, to enable citizens to quickly and easily E-mail staff with questions, concerns and compliments 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week via the website. The new Ask Mountain View system provides a list of topic area designations, so that questions can be routed to the correct City department and staff member, helping to ensure a speedy reply during normal business hours.

From tree issues to street repair, from recreation programs to building permits, Ask Mountain View can help you find the information you're looking for and the staff member who can help. Just visit www.mountainview.gov and click on 'Ask Mountain View' to ask a question, make a comment, or get more information. For further information, contact the City Manager's Office at (650) 903-6301.



PRIVATE PROJECT UPDATES

For more information on the following projects, call the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6306.

• San Antonio Center Proposal

Developer Merlone Geier is proposing the redevelopment of 16 acres of the San Antonio Center along San Antonio Road. The City is reviewing conceptual plans proposing commercial, restaurant, and housing uses. It is anticipated that the project will contain a grocery store, restaurants, large retailers, and numerous small tenant spaces throughout the project. An alternative conceptual plan is also under consideration, which would replace the housing with a cinema.

• Evelyn Avenue Proposal

Prometheus Real Estate is proposing a 214-unit apartment project on a 3.63-acre property at the Minton's Lumber site, 455 W. Evelyn Avenue. The proposal includes two buildings over a podium garage, with two-story heights along Villa Street transitioning to three-story heights along Bush Street, and four-story heights along W. Evelyn Avenue. The project requires a General Plan Amendment and will likely be reviewed by the City Council in early 2010.

• Middlefield Road Proposal

VeriSign is proposing a new four-story, 102,000 sq. ft. building on its 10.7-acre campus at 575 E. Middlefield Road. As part of the project, VeriSign would redesign the current landscaping and parking lots and install a segment of a public trail that will eventually connect to the future South Whisman housing project. It is anticipated that the project will be considered by the City Council in early 2010.

FREE ONLINE TUTORS FOR STUDENTS

Mountain View students can access free online help with homework through a new program called Brainfuse/HelpNow funded by a grant from the State Library with the support of the Friends of the Library. All that's needed is a valid Mountain View library card. HelpNow tutors are trained and credentialed, and available to help with math, science, social studies, English/language arts, writing, and reading assistance.

Tutors provide live help in English or Spanish for grades 3-12. Experienced tutors will answer individual questions or help students master State-aligned key academic skills from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven-days-a-week. Students can take practice tests and receive immediate feedback on skills they have mastered and find out about those that need more work. With 24 hours notice, tutors will provide detailed corrections and a critique of papers and reports.

To access the service, go to www.mountainview.gov/library. Click on 'Resources Online' on the left of the homepage, then find 'Homework' and click on 'Brainfuse/HelpNow'. For more information, call the Mountain View Library at (650) 903-6888 or E-mail Karin.bricker@mountainview.gov.

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

Come celebrate the holidays with friends and family at the Mountain View Tree Lighting Celebration on Wednesday, December 2 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro Street. This annual, free event features live holiday music, refreshments, holiday lights and the chance for children to have their picture taken. The evening kicks off with entertainment, followed by tree lighting.

In the spirit of the season, everyone is encouraged to bring a can of food to donate to the Share the Cheer Holiday Food Drive, which benefits the Mountain View Community Services Agency. For more information, call the Community Services Department-Recreation Division at (650) 903-6331.



CENSUS 2010: BE COUNTED MOUNTAIN VIEW



During March and April, households throughout the United States will receive a 2010 Census questionnaire that includes ten questions and takes about ten minutes to complete. It's important that Mountain View residents complete and return the Census form by April 1, 2010. The data from the form is used to apportion Congressional seats, to help determine the distribution of Federal funds to local and State governments, and to plan for the construction of new roads, schools and hospitals.

Everyone is required by law to participate in the Census. Federal law protects the personal information you share during the Census count from being used for any other purpose. The confidential information provided in the Census will help provide an accurate picture of the community in the year 2010.

If you need assistance filling out the form, help is available for non-English speakers or those that have difficulty reading or writing. Large-print questionnaires are available to the visually impaired upon request, and a Teletext Device for the Deaf (TDD) program will help the hearing impaired. For assistance and more information, call the Santa Clara County office of Census 2010 at (408) 299-6404 or the City Manager's Office at (650) 903-6301.

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Holiday magic is in the air at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts with a dazzling line up of theatre, dance and music productions. For tickets and information, call (650) 903-6000 or visit mvcpa.com.

November 27 – 29

Pacific Ballet presents **The Nutcracker**

December 4 – 6

Western Ballet presents **The Nutcracker**

December 5

Western Ballet presents **Nutcracker Sweet Tea**

December 9 – 13

Smuin Ballet presents **The Christmas Ballet, 2009 Edition**

December 11 & 12

Peninsula Youth Theatre Stories on Stage presents **Auntie Claus**

December 14

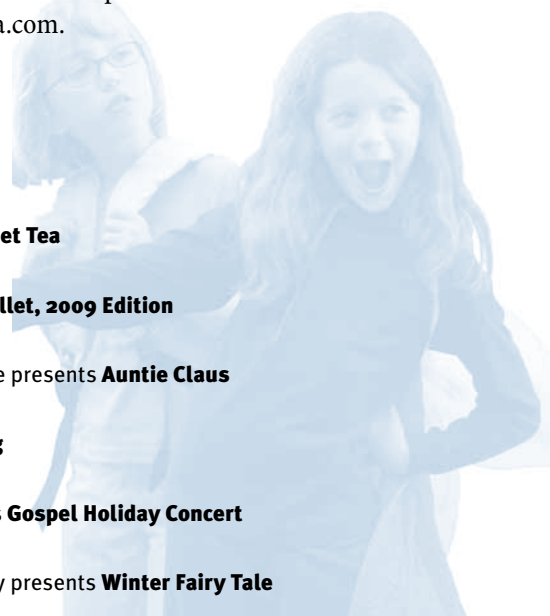
Schola Cantorum presents **Messiah Sing**

December 18

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir presents **Gospel Holiday Concert**

December 20

Dancers Group and Bayer Ballet Academy presents **Winter Fairy Tale**



TOYS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Police Department will be collecting new, unopened toys for needy Mountain View children of all ages this holiday season through the Cops that Care program. The toys that are collected from the community will be distributed to needy children at a free, special event on Saturday, December 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the



The City is helping to ensure that all of our residents will be counted by working with agencies in the region, including the local U.S. Census Office in Mountain View, Santa Clara County, the State of California, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more information, visit www.mountainview.gov or (650) 903- 6301, or check the following websites:

- Census 2010 Website (the Official U.S. Census Bureau): <http://2010.census.gov>
- "Be Californian. Be Counted." California Complete Count: <http://www.census.ca.gov>
- Santa Clara County Office of the County Executive Census 2010: <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/census2010>.

**Census
Day is April 1,
2010!**

Police Department Auditorium at 1000 Villa Street. The program is open to all Mountain View residents and children who attend school in Mountain View. Children must be under 18 and attend the holiday event with a parent or guardian to receive a gift.

Beginning December 1, anyone wishing to donate gifts can bring new, unwrapped toys to the Police Department at 1000 Villa Street, Monday through Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cash donations, as well as toys for older children, including gift certificates, are especially needed.

For more information, contact Officer Ron Cooper at (650) 903-6712 or by E-mail at ron.cooper@mountainview.gov.



Flood Protection Information

Twelve percent of the City of Mountain View is located within special flood hazard areas. Flooding in these areas is caused by tidal flooding from the Bay and flooding from Permanente Creek. Below are suggestions for things you can do protect yourself and your property in the event of flooding.

Flood Safety

- Do not walk through flowing waters.
- Do not drive through a flooded area.
- Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
- Have your electricity turned off by the Power Company. Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- Look before you step. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Flood Insurance

Standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, the City of Mountain View is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes it possible for property owners to obtain Federally-backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building or its contents). Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss.

By participating in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, the City earns a 10 percent discount on insurance rates for the community by exceeding minimum standards for flood risk reduction. This discount applies to National Flood Insurance policies issued or renewed. The

actual cost of insurance will vary depending upon the amount of coverage and degree of flood hazard. In certain instances, such as the purchase of a new home with a Federally-backed mortgage, National Flood Insurance is required. Even if flood insurance is not required or you live in a moderate-to-low risk area, the risk of flooding is still very real. FEMA recommends residents purchase flood insurance. Preferred rate policies start at \$119 per year.

Flood Map Information

Upon request, the City will provide the public, lending institutions, real estate agents and insurance agents with certain flood map information. Call (650) 903-6311 during normal business hours or visit the Public Works Department at City Hall for the following information:

- Classification of whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area
- Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the Flood Insurance Rate Map zone, base flood elevation, or depth
- A handout on flood insurance purchase requirements

You can find out your flood risk online at Floodsmart.gov. This site provides relative risks, links to flood risk maps and other flood insurance community resources.

Flood Protection Tips

There are various actions that can be taken to flood proof structures. Electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters and washer/dryers should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to be flooded. Basement floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed, and interior flood walls can be placed around utilities. If flooding is likely, and time permits, move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home. Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by flood waters.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER WITH THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The City of Mountain View's Volunteer Services Program gives you the opportunity to turn your special talents and abilities into positive action. For more information, call Volunteer Services, at (650) 903-6607 or visit www.mountainview.gov to download a volunteer application.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Deer Hollow Farm — School Year Teaching Docents - Volunteers are needed to teach small groups of elementary school children about the farm and garden, and Native American studies. Training is provided and no experience is necessary. School year classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Call Deer Hollow Farm for more information at (650) 903-6430 or E-mail dhfarms@mountainview.gov

Mountain View Center for Performing Arts — Ushers - Assist patrons at scheduled performances. The next usher training will be held Monday, March 8, and Monday, March 15, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Center. No pre-registration required. Volunteers must attend both sessions. For more information, contact Liz Nelson at (650) 903-6568 or E-mail Liz@mvcpa.com

Mountain View Center for Performing Arts — Docents - Volunteers are needed to monitor the lobby from noon to 1:00 p.m. to allow the public to view art exhibits on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, contact Liz Nelson at (650) 903-6568 or E-mail Liz@mvcpa.com

Senior Services — Front Desk - Greet and give information to senior visitors. Help is needed Tuesday and Friday mornings. For more information, call (650) 903-6330 or E-mail seniorcenter@mountainview.gov

Senior Services — Computer Lab - Assist seniors in the technology center. Shifts are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Megan Garverick at (650) 903-6448 or E-mail megan.garverick@mountainview.gov

Shoreline at Mountain View — Shoreline seeks friendly volunteer docents 18 years and older for the following jobs:

- **Environmental Docent** — Help educate the public about the maritime history, landfill legacy, unique ecosystems, and environmental processes at Shoreline at Mountain View.

- **Curriculum and Exhibit Designers** — Support the ongoing development of curriculum for school and community groups, as well as in increasing seasonal exhibit opportunities at Rengstorff House.

- **Other Shoreline at Mountain View Positions** — Work as a Shoreline and Stevens Creek Trail patrol ranger, gatehouse volunteer, Rengstorff House docent, gardener or school outreach volunteer.

For more information on any of the above positions, contact Kristina Rockhold at (650) 903-6073 or E-mail kristina.rockhold@mountainview.gov.

Police Services — Home Security Inspection - Volunteers with a background in home construction, home security, or related field are needed to help with security inspections. Requires a 4-hour/month commitment with training provided. Complete an application form at www.mvdpd.gov or call Gina Kaitlen at (650) 903-6749 or E-mail pdvolunteers@mountainview.gov.

"The Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts has become my home away from home and I treasure my MVCPA family. I have met so many wonderful and interesting people and enjoy talking about the Center and the city and all they have to offer. It is also fun to work in a beautiful environment. I would encourage others to consider taking the training and becoming a volunteer!"

Sally Corcoran, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts Volunteer

Police - Field Assistance Volunteer - Conduct tobacco compliance checks, assist with outreach in the false alarm program, patrol parks, provide information to the public and assist patrol teams with traffic enforcement and neighborhood canvasses as needed. Requires a 4-hour/month commitment; training provided. Fill out an application form at www.mvdpd.gov or call Gina Kaitlen at (650) 903-6749 or E-mail volunteers@mountainview.gov.



Community Outreach Program — Volunteers bilingual in English and Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin) are needed to assist staff in providing information about City services at various fairs and events. Requires a 2-4 hour weekend commitment with training provided.

Volunteer Services – Keeping citizens connected keeps communities strong!

For more information, contact Blanca Cinco at (650) 903-6145 or E-mail blanca.cinco@mountainview.gov

If you have an idea, talent to offer, or want to join our team, call the Volunteer Services Office today at (650) 903-6607.

JOIN A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is a program designed to prepare Mountain View residents to help themselves, their families and



neighbors, in the event of a disaster. The training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. Formerly known as Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Training, the CERT program is free to all citizens of Mountain View.

Over the course of 4 weeks, CERT members receive training in earthquake awareness, disaster fire suppression techniques, disaster medical operations, first aid/CPR, light search and rescue, as well as team organization and management. CERT Training culminates with a disaster simulation and comprehensive course review. All classes are taught by trained emergency personnel, including firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, with an emphasis on hands-on practice. Following a disaster, CERT teams can extinguish small fires, turn off gas inlets to damaged homes, perform light search and rescue, and render basic first aid. The CERT program provides an effective response capability.

Free CERT training classes are conducted throughout the year and have been taught in languages other than English. Please use the "Register Online" link at: www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/fire/programs_n_services/disaster_preparedness.asp to sign up for a class, or call the Office of Emergency Services at (650) 903-6825 for information and registration.

YOUR CONNECTION TO CITY GOVERNMENT

You can watch City Council meetings live on your computer, laptop, or PDA device. You can also access an archive of previous Council meetings and many Environmental Planning Commission meetings and view them on-line. This is your link to E-government! The City's Information Technology Division enhances access and improves the way residents find out information about Mountain View. For updates visit: www.mountainview.gov

The View newsletter is part of the City's community outreach and information program. Should you have any questions about the latest issue of *The View*, please call (650) 903-6210 or send an E-mail to: kimberly.thomas@mountainview.gov

SAME COMPANY, NEW NAME! FOOTHILL DISPOSAL IS NOW RECOLOGY™ MOUNTAIN VIEW

Foothill Disposal's parent company, Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. has changed its name to Recology™, and as a result, Foothill Disposal will have a new name too - Recology™ Mountain View. This is a change in name only, and does not affect the ownership or organizational structure of the company, or the current services provided to Mountain View residents and businesses.

For Calendar updates on all meetings and events, visit the City’s website at www.mountainview.gov/events or tune into KMVT (cable TV)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Community Holiday Tree Lighting- Wednesday, December 2, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., 500 Castro Street
- Rengstorff Holiday Open House – Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard
- Cops That Care Toy Distribution Event – Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 1000 Villa Street

CALENDAR

Council, Board, Committee and Commission Meetings

City Council – meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Library Board – meets the third Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Library Conference Room, Library, 585 Franklin Street

Environmental Planning Commission – meets the first and third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Human Relations Commission – meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Plaza Conference Room, City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Parks and Recreation Commission – meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee – meets the last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Plaza Conference Room, City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Downtown Committee – meets as needed.

Performing Arts Committee – meets the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., SecondStage, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street

Visual Arts Committee – meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Atrium Conference Room, City Hall, 500 Castro Street

Youth Advisory Committee – meets the first Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue

Senior Advisory Committee– meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2:00-4:00 p.m., Senior Center, 266 Escuela Avenue

NASA AMES Celebrates 70th Anniversary!

On December 20, 1939, the NASA Ames Research Center was founded and over the next 70 years, the center has researched and developed critical technologies that make NASA missions possible, conducted missions of its own and developed green technologies to improve the quality of life on Earth. In honoring NASA Ames contributions to the local community, the City, its merchants, and residents are celebrating the anniversary with twelve historical exhibits that include astronaut suits, wind tunnel models, and small spacecraft models. The exhibits are located at City Hall and eleven downtown businesses along Castro Street and will be available for viewing through the end of December. To learn more about the anniversary and exhibits, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/nasa-ames-70-years/index.html>.

Environmental Docent Walks at Shoreline

Join friends and neighbors each Tuesday and the 4th Sunday of each month to learn more about the area’s history and natural resources. Walks begin at 11:00 a.m. and depart from Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard. No advanced registration is necessary. Bring binoculars and layered clothing. For more information, call (650) 903-6392.

Rengstorff House Exhibits

Rengstorff House, Mountain View’s historic home, located at 3070 N. Shoreline Boulevard in Shoreline Park, offers a series of unique exhibitions to educate the public about Mountain View’s history. Upcoming exhibits include:

- December: Holiday Décor
- January – February: Victorian Etiquette 101
- March – April: All About the Victorian “Language of Flowers”

Spring Flower Show April 15

The Friends of ‘R’ House, Mountain View’s historic Victorian home, will host a juried flower show in the house and surrounding gardens from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, for community members and area garden clubs. For submissions or additional event information, call (650) 969-3261.

Celebrate Arbor Day on March 13, 2010

The City of Mountain View celebrates Arbor Day on Saturday, March 13 in Pioneer Park with a variety of events, including tree planting. The City also plans to make approximately 125 new trees available to individual residents this year for planting on their property.

The planting event is part of the City’s forestry restoration efforts and the celebration of the State of California’s Arbor Day.

Residents who wish to participate in the tree planting must fill out and submit the request form included in this issue of The View by 5:00 pm on January 29, 2010, and agree to plant and maintain the tree on their property. If the number of requests for trees exceeds the number of trees available, names will be drawn at random. The City will deliver the tree of choice to eligible residents during the week of March 8.

Residents may choose from five varieties of trees.

- The Red Maple is a deciduous tree that requires full sun, steady watering and will grow to 50 feet with leaves that range from yellow to red in the fall.
- The Krauter Plum is a deciduous tree that requires full sun, moderate watering, grows to 20 feet and blooms with light pink flowers.
- The Brisbane Box is an evergreen tree with inconspicuous flowers that can tolerate some shade, has low watering requirements and grows up to 60 feet high.
- The Crape Myrtle is a deciduous tree with showy, pink summer flowers. It grows to approximately 25 feet high.
- The Chinese Pistache is a deciduous tree that requires full sun, moderate watering, and grows to 60 feet with leaves that turn red, yellow and orange in the fall.

For more information about Arbor Day activities, call the Forestry and Roadway Landscape Division at (650) 903-6273.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Events

Saturday, December 19 in San Jose
For additional events beginning in January, call (408) 299-7300.

Home Composting Workshops

Call (408) 918-4640 to obtain a schedule for upcoming workshops and to register.

New Landscape Ordinance

The City Council will consider a new water efficient landscape ordinance in 2010 that will strive to achieve a 25 percent water savings through requiring new developments within the City to install water efficient landscaping and irrigation systems. The proposed ordinance is in response to a new State law instructing cities to adopt water efficient landscape ordinances in order to cut California’s water usage. According to research by the American Water Works Association, 58 percent of urban water is used on landscaping which is typically overwatered 30 - 300 percent. For more information, call the Community Development Department at (650) 903-6306.

City Offices will be closed:

Friday, December 25 and
Monday, December 28 for the Holiday
Friday, January 1 for New Year’s Holiday
Monday, January 18 for Martin
Luther King Day
Monday, February 15 for Presidents’
Day

Abbreviation Guide

CC – Council Chambers, City Hall

PCR – Plaza Conference Room, City Hall

ACR – Atrium Conference Room, City Hall

All dates are subject to change. Contact the City Clerk’s Office at (650) 903-6304 to confirm dates and times.

APPLICATION FOR ARBOR DAY 2010 TREES

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: (_____) _____

Tree Planting Address: _____

Type of Tree Requested (refer to list): _____

Planting Location of Arbor Day Tree (examples: southwest corner of backyard, center of front lawn, backyard garden): _____

The undersigned agrees to: (1) accept the tree as requested above, (2) plant the tree as indicated on the application, (3) maintain the tree at own expense (tree planting/care information will be supplied).

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please complete and return this application by mail before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2010.
Send to:

City of Mountain View, Forestry Division
P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

(Office Use Only) Date Received: _____